

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 943

By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to name the bridge spanning the Wolf River on Germantown Parkway in Shelby County in honor of Morris H. Fair.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges in honor of those exemplary public servants who have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Morris H. Fair, whose recent death saddened the whole of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, born in Tyronza, Arkansas, Mr. Fair worked at his father's service station before serving in the United States Air Force. After his service in the Air Force, he graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1956; and

WHEREAS, a founder of United Municipal Investment Corporation, Morris Fair later became a senior Vice President of Union Planters Bank after the company merged with United Municipal Investment in 1988; and

WHEREAS, a natural leader, Mr. Fair was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Shelby County Commission in 1996; a straightforward and charismatic politician who never allowed party affiliation to interfere with sound public policy, he was elected to serve a full term on the commission in 1998; and

WHEREAS, as a Shelby County Commissioner, Mr. Fair was a key leader and financial adviser on two of the largest construction projects undertaken by the local government: a comprehensive renovation of the Memphis Cook Convention Center and the construction of FedExForum; and

WHEREAS, deeply passionate about his beloved Razorbacks, Morris Fair held season tickets in both football and basketball and served as President of the University of Arkansas Alumni Association in 1997-98; and

WHEREAS, after his meritorious service as a Shelby County Commissioner, Mr. Fair served as a Tennessee Lottery Board member and the public finance consultant for Duncan-Williams Incorporated; his invaluable service on the Lottery Board ensured the initial success of the lottery scholarship program and helped establish the means for providing access to higher education for the State's children; and

WHEREAS, his concern for the causes he championed was so great that he continued to contribute his time and energy after being diagnosed with cancer, working for the public good until his final hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of his meritorious service to the citizens of Memphis, Shelby County, and Tennessee, this General Assembly proposes to name the bridge which crosses Wolf River on Germantown Parkway (State Route 177) in Shelby County to permanently commemorate Morris H. Fair's bountiful life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning the Wolf River on Germantown Parkway (State Route 177) in Shelby County is hereby designated the "Morris H. Fair Memorial Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the "Morris H. Fair Memorial Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation.